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Company Press Release

U.S. Solar Firm Hires Former Lockheed V.P.

TUCSON, Ariz.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 24, 2000--Global Solar Energy L.L.C., has hired Matthew B. Foster as Vice President of Business Development.

Most recently, Foster was Vice President of Business Development and Advanced Programs for Lockheed Martin Astronautics Co. where he served in top corporate development, acquisition and marketing roles.

Foster will lead the marketing of Global Solar's innovative solar products, particularly to the burgeoning military and aerospace sectors. He also will oversee the commercialization of a new line of microminiature rechargeable batteries which the company expects to begin producing this year. He will be based at the firm's administrative and research and development headquarters near Denver.

``Global Solar is extremely fortunate to acquire an executive and senior engineer of Mr. Foster's caliber and experience," said Dr. Mohan Misra, president of the company.

Misra's sentiments were echoed by James S. Pignatelli, chief executive officer and president of Tucson-based UniSource Energy Corp., which owns 67 percent of Global Solar.

``A strategic focus of UniSource Energy is the commercialization of consumer-based technologies," he said. ``Matthew Foster's addition to the Global Solar team brings formidable business development skills to bear on important new products now being readied for the market."

From its Tucson production headquarters, Global Solar manufactures a thin-film photovoltaic material that converts sunlight directly into electricity. Unlike traditional solar panels that are heavy, fragile, and rigid, Global Solar's thin-film solar modules are lightweight, durable, and can be incorporated into flexible products.

Global Solar's current production is focused on manufacturing Global Solar's unique lightweight and flexible solar modules including its foldable Portable Power Pack(TM). These products satisfy both defense department and non-military applications.

Other efforts are focused on fulfilling existing government contracts, supplying PV material to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for incorporation into products such as roofing materials, and providing lightweight modules to satisfy traditional residential and commercial applications.

Global Solar also is developing a pilot line of thin-film solid state rechargeable batteries. The batteries are thinner than a human hair, tolerant of wide ranges of operating temperatures, can be recharged thousands of times, and can be fabricated into many shapes and sizes to meet requirements of specific applications.

These batteries can be the active power source for microelectronics (implantable medical devices), as a standby power source for microelectronics (CMOS-SRAM memory devices), and for other applications. Longer term, Global Solar intends to integrate these batteries with its CIS photovoltaic modules to offer fully self-contained and flexible power packs.

UniSource Energy Corp. owns two-thirds of Advanced Energy Technologies, which, in turn, owns all of Global Solar Energy.

UniSource Energy's other affiliates include Tucson Electric Power Co., the second largest investor-owned utility in Arizona; Nations Energy Corp., an investor in independent power projects; ION International, a newly-formed energy services company; and Southwest Energy Solutions, a regional energy services company.

The other one-third owner of Global Solar Energy is ITN Energy Systems Inc., a Denver-based, privately-held research and technology development company. It specializes in advanced materials sciences, and thin-film intelligent processing to provide innovative solutions to space, energy, and environmental industries.

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